

**BLET REVISION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
April 13, 2012
High Point PD Firearms Training Facility**

Chief Marty Sumner and Lieutenant Mark Lane welcomed everyone to the new High Point Police Department Firearms Training Facility.

Mark Strickland (Director, NCJA) thanked Chief Sumner and Lieutenant Lane for opening their facility to the North Carolina Justice Academy in hosting the April 13, 2012 BLET Revision Committee meeting. Director Strickland called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and advised the Committee that he would be serving as Acting Chairman for Jennifer Fisher who was unable to attend. Janet Dunn called the roll. Nancy Bennett had advised that she would be unable to attend today's meeting.

Members Present:

Mack Creson
Alfred Ellis
Jason Godwin
Louis Ingram
Wrenn Johnson
Wayne Lamm
Mark Lane
Jeffrey Robinson
Steve Warren

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Autumn Hanna, Sheriffs' Standards Division
Teresa Marrella, Sheriffs' Standards Division

Staff Present:

Mark Strickland, Director, NC Justice Academy (Acting Chairman, representing Jennifer Fisher)
Kristi Jernigan, NC Justice Academy
David Shick, NC Department of Justice
Janet Dunn, NC Justice Academy

Visitors Present:

Cherie Maness, Captain – High Point Police Department
Michael Macario, Officer – Raleigh Police Department
Mike Yelton, Lieutenant – Asheville Police Department
Robert Kurtz, Psychologist & Program Mgr. – NC Division of Mental Health/DD/SAS
Deby Dihoff, Executive Director – NC National Alliance on Mental Illness

Director Strickland asked for approval or correction of the January 20, 2012 meeting minutes. Wayne Lamm made the **motion** to approve the minutes. Wrenn Johnson **seconded**. **The motion was approved.**

OLD BUSINESS

POPAT Re-Validation Project

Director Strickland updated the Committee on the status of the POPAT Re-validation Project, advising that the legal review had been done and submitted to John Comb's technical group for review. Aaron Massey (Cleveland Community College), Ed Holloman (Guilford Tech.), Gordon Knight (Mitchell) and Susan Hunter (Raleigh Police Department) have been asked to join the technical group to review the legal changes and/or suggestions of how it impacts POPAT. Director Strickland discussed the steps involved in the process leading up to the project being presented to the BLET Revision Committee.

Individuals with Mental Illness and Mental Retardation

North Carolina Justice Academy and National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) have collaborated in working to develop this lesson plan, to combine the needs of law enforcement and what is available. Director Strickland asked Deby Dihoff if she would like to comment on this topic.

Deby Dihoff introduced Dr. Bob Kurtz, Division of Mental Health, and Mike Macario, Raleigh Police Department, who have been beneficial in the development and update of the mental health topic. Ms. Dihoff offered to answer any questions that members may have about the topic.

Director Strickland advised that there were some grammatical and formatting changes that were identified and will take place from the copy of the lesson plan that members received in the mail. Since this was a complete rewrite of the topic, several motions were proposed to the Committee for approval of how we will move forward in the future.

Director Strickland asked for a motion to approve the changes to the lesson plan. Jeffrey Robinson made the **motion** to approve the changes to the Individuals with Mental Illness lesson plan. Louis Ingram **seconded. The motion was approved.**

Working with Criminal Justice staff, request pilot authority so that starting July 1st, this lesson plan can be submitted to all school deliveries throughout North Carolina. Since this is a complete rewrite, requesting pilot authority from the E&T Committee for one year will allow for two deliveries per site to help ensure that it meets the needs of the system as well as law enforcement. Discussions ensued regarding concerns behind requesting the pilot authority, the length of the lesson plan, the videos, the forms, and the time it may take to conduct the training. Director Strickland advised that the videos are fairly close in time to what was being used and what is being used now. The lesson plan is close in page numbers between the old and the new; therefore, it is felt that it would be close to an eight hour block of instruction. A pilot authority would allow time for adjustments as needed, if needed.

Director Strickland asked for a motion to move forward to E&T, requesting pilot authority. Jason Godwin made the **motion**. Mack Creson **seconded. The motion was approved.**

In talking with NAMI, a name change is desired to remove the terms "Mental Retardation" and present it before the E&T Committee for a Commission action for "Individuals with Mental Illness or Developmental Disabilities." The lesson plan would be double-checked to ensure all the language coincides with the name change as well.

Steve Warren made a **motion** to present the name change before the E&T Committee. Jeffrey Robinson **seconded. The motion was approved.**

Video Project

Several videos are being removed from the curriculum because of being so outdated, inaccessible where you cannot purchase them any longer. Jennifer Fisher has contacted each publisher to ensure they can be purchased. Mrs. Fisher has spoken with Valerie Coffey, NCJA video supervisor, about developing a video for each block of instruction. The plan is to attempt developing three to four videos every six months. When a block of instruction is revised, the video unit will be notified and ways to supplement the training with the videos and produce it at the Academy versus going to the vendors. By producing the videos, when techniques change or different situations change, the videos can be edited—adding or removing—what needs to be changed versus having to purchase a new video from a vendor.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Strickland asked for direction in how the Committee would like to handle the revisions of the lesson plans being presented; vote on them one-by-one or as a collective group. The Committee agreed to vote on them as a collective group.

Physical Fitness Training – Minor revisions

Director Strickland explained what “Draft” followed by numbers means that appears at the top of the lesson plans being presented at this meeting. This indicates the pages that contain changes. Most of these pages contained symbols resulting from the original lesson plans being typed in WordPerfect; now being corrected as well. The main changes for this lesson plan are found on pages 63 through 72—Food Pyramid replaced with Food Plate.

Arrest, Search, and Seizure/Constitutional Law

Pages 5, 6, and 7 contained minor changes, such as grammatical changes. Main changes are found on pages 107 through 110. David Shick is familiar with these changes and advised that Committee that these changes deal with the Fifth Amendment, dealing with when somebody invokes their right to counsel under the Fifth Amendment. When a person is under continuous custody, there are only certain situations which will allow law enforcement to re-approach to continue that interrogation. The two primary ones would be where the lawyer is actually present and the second one is where the suspect reinitiates that conversation to law enforcement, calling him back in. These two points were separated into distinct sections (creating a format change) with some clarifying language. The Shatzer rule was written to help with understanding the third time, when “we” can reinitiate custodial interrogation after the invocation right to counsel.

Field Notetaking and Report Writing

Director Strickland directed the members to the handouts that were provided for the *Field Notetaking and Report Writing* lesson plan, indicating that this copy contains additional changes from the copy they previously received. The Attorney General’s office reviewed the lesson plan and recommended additional changes as shown on pages 7, 8, 13, 17, 45, and 47. One video—from 1975—is outdated and recommended that it be removed.

Dealing with Victims and the Public

Recommendation that the video on Page 2, *Innocent Offender*, Alzheimer’s Association (1988), be removed since it is no longer accessible. If an agency has the video now, you can still use it.

Criminal Investigation

This revision is removing the videos from 1997 and 1998 due to being outdated and possibly some bad tactics are being used in them.

Law Enforcement Driver Training

This block of instruction was approved last summer; however, since it was approved, North Carolina Justice Academy staff felt it needed additional technical revisions, by adding some endnotes and references to ensure proper documentation of resources. Curriculum was not changed, just the addition of references and endnotes.

Explosives & Hazardous Materials Emergencies

The revision for this block of instruction is minor in nature; removal of video #3. *Suspicious Packages* video, produced by AIMS Multimedia (1992), on page two is no longer accessible from the vendor. Steve Warren advised that AIMS went out of business; however, another vendor has purchased the rights to the videos. Director Strickland advised that the Academy will review all the AIMS videos to ensure that they are available and if so, through what vendor.

Mike Yelton, Asheville Police Department, bomb tech and hazmat instructor, advised that the *Suspicious Packages* video, originally the LESO video, is a good video although some of the information is a little “off” compared to what is considered an appropriate doctrine, but the general guidelines are still good as far as keeping officers safe when responding to a suspicious package in the field.

Discussions were further held regarding how to handle the *Suspicious Packages* video; whether to remove the video, make it optional, consider a suitable replacement, ask the Academy to reproduce it, or table the decision for now. The Academy does have copies of the mandatory videos that can be borrowed on loan if an agency does not have it.

Director Strickland asked if the Committee wanted to table it, and the Committee agreed. Steve Warren made the **motion** to table the *Suspicious Packages* video. Mack Creson **seconded**. **The motion was approved.**

Sheriff's Responsibilities: Detention Duties

One revision to the lesson plan is found on page 10 which is part of the misdemeanor confinement program that is associated with the Sheriffs' Association and the Department of Correction. Added to the lesson plan are the “Dunk” and the “Dip” programs for misdemeanants. A second revision to the lesson plan is found on pages 21 through 31; seen as a strikethrough. This text was removed from the lesson plan and added as a handout, which was also provided to the Committee for review.

Sheriff's Responsibilities: Court Duties

Revisions to the lesson plan deal with special characters—example: Sheriff's instead of Sheriff's—and the removal of the video, *Safe Cells*, LA Educational Media (1991). The video is no longer accessible.

Individuals with Mental Illness and Mental Retardation

A recap of the new business for this block of instruction centers around the name change which has been previously discussed and voted on.

Human Trafficking

The “Human Trafficking” lesson plan was presented to the Committee for review since this was not included in the mailing previously received. The revision to this lesson plan takes place on page 9, 4. j) where “not” was added so that it correctly reads: “Men and boys are not trafficked.”

This concludes the lesson plan revisions for July 2012. This information will be presented to the E&T in May 2012, except for the Explosives video that was tabled. Wayne Lamm made a **motion** to accept the revisions as a packet, except for Explosives. Wayne Lamm **seconded**. **The motion was approved.**

DIVISIONS' REPORTS

Criminal Justice Standards Division Report

Teresa Marrella reported that Wayne Woodard is retiring effective May 1, 2012. Mark Dearry resigned in March 2012. Mr. Dearry's responsibilities have been divided among staff with Teresa handling everything related to BLET, including course approvals for BLET and instructor courses. Tim Pressley and Pam Pope are handling accreditation issues and Tim is handling school director renewals.

A meeting will be held next month with regional representatives to discuss plans for regional testing. Information will be forthcoming as made available.

Some BLET forms have recently been changed; Pre- and Post-Course delivery forms. Changes will be made to the Student Course Completion Record in the near future. The change will address the area indicating if a student passes or fails the course. If the student fails one or two units, there is no place to indicate this on the current form. Changes will allow for accurate documentation.

Sheriffs' Standards Division Report

Autumn Hanna reported that the new detention tests are still ongoing. It seems to be going really well; receiving good scores. Statistical data, including a breakdown of who is failing what and why, will be made available in June at the Sheriffs' Commission meeting.

NEW BUSINESS – MEMBERSHIP

None presented

FUTURE MEETING DATES/LOCATIONS

- July 13, 2012 – Asheville Police Department, Asheville, NC
(NOTE: Four Point Sheraton hotel reservations must be made by June 12, 2012 in order to qualify for the state rate. Be sure to *call the hotel directly* and not the reservation line.)
- October 12, 2012 – Morehead City Police Department, Morehead City, NC

Steve Warren made a **motion** that the meeting be adjourned. Mark Lane **seconded**. **The motion was approved.**

Respectfully,

Janet Dunn
Program Assistant
North Carolina Justice Academy

Date:

April 18, 2012